APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/476,737	12/30/1999	MOHAN J. KUMAR	P8161(1070/2)	8230

			EXAMINER
8791	7590	07/06/2005	LANIER, BENJAMIN E

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2132	

DATE MAILED: 07/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/476,737	KUMAR ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Benjamin E Lanier	2132

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *31 May 2005* .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,4,6-8,12,13,16,17,20,31 and 34-38* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1,4,6-8, 12-13, 16-17, 20, 31, 34-38* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *30 December 1999* is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

    If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

       1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

       2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

       3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .   6)☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1.   Applicant's amendment filed 31 May 2005 amends claims 1, 4, 6-8, 12, 13, 16, 17, 20,

31, 34-37, and adds claim 38. Applicant's amendment has been fully considered and is entered.

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant's arguments filed 31 May 2005 have been fully considered but they are not

persuasive. Applicant's argument that the prior art does not disclose that the challenge response

includes a session identifier and a first hash number that is a function of at least one of the

challenge string, the session identification, a sequence number, and a password is not persuasive

because one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the

rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ

871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

3.   Dustan does not disclose the challenge response containing a hash. Kaufman discloses a

cryptographic authentication method wherein a server stores a hashed user password in its

database. When a user wants to authenticate with the server, the server sends the user a nonce,

which meets the limitation of a challenge string, the user then computes a hash of the nonce and

the user password and transmits the hash to the server for authentication (Col. 3, lines 1-35).

4.   Similarly, Applicant's argument that the prior art does not disclose receiving at the

service processor a direct platform control message from the client application, the message

including a second hash number to verify the integrity of the DPC message is not persuasive

because Kaufman further discloses that a hash of the message is included in the message along

with the hash of the user password (Col. 9, lines 46-64).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6.   The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham* v. *John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459

(1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1.   Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2.   Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3.   Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4.   Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

7.   Claims 1, 4, 6-8, 12, 13, 16, 17, 20, 31, 34-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as

being unpatentable over Dustan, U.S. Patent No. 5,884,312, in view of Kaufman, U.S. Patent No.

5,666,415. Referring to claims 1, 6-8, 12, 13, 17, 20, 31, 35, 37, Dustan discloses a system for

securely accessing network information wherein a user requests a logon menu from a network

server using a client and receiving a logon menu at the client (Col. 3, lines 11-14), which meets

the limitation of receiving a request for hardware component information at a service processor

disposed in a hardware component as an open session request from a requesting client

application. The user then transmits logon information and the information is then verified at a

database server (Col. 3, lines 17-20). The database server then generates and stores a unique

session identification number at the database server in response to successfully verifying that the

logon input is a valid logon input. The session identification number and a portion of the logon

input is transmitted to the client for storage purposes (Col. 3, lines 23-35), which meets the

limitation of transmitting from the service processor a challenge string to the requesting client

application, the challenge string including a session identification assigned by the service

processor, wherein the session identification is unique to each session. The user then sends a

request to perform at least a first function requiring access to a first type of disparate data by

communicating the session identification number, the portion of the logon input, and the first

function request to the database server (Col. 3, lines 26-34), which meets the limitation of

receiving at the service processor a challenge response from the requesting client application, the

challenge response including the session identification. The database server then verifies that the

session identification number and the portion of the logon input are valid, and exchanging

information between the database server and the first type of disparate data while performing the

first function which is output to the client (Col. 3, lines 35-41), which meets the limitations of

comparing the challenge response to an expected response to the challenge string, wherein the

comparing includes verifying the session identification received in the challenge response

against the session identification transmitted in the challenge string, and transmitting the

hardware component information to the requesting client application. Dustan does not disclose

the challenge response containing a hash. Kaufman discloses a cryptographic authentication

method wherein a server stores a hashed user password in its database. When a user wants to

authenticate with the server, the server sends the user a nonce, which meets the limitation of a

challenge string, the user then computes a hash of the nonce and the user password and transmits

the hash to the server for authentication (Col. 3, lines 1-35), which meets the limitation of

receiving in the service processor a challenge response from the requesting client application, the

response including a hash number that is a function of at least one of the challenge string, session

identification number, sequence number and a password. Kaufman further discloses that a hash

of the message is included in the message along with the hash of the user password (Col. 9, lines

46-64), which meets the limitation of receiving at the service processor a direct platform control

message from the client application, the message including a second hash number to verify the

integrity of the DPC message. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in art at the

time the invention was made to hash the challenge response of Dustan in order to protect the

sensitive information from eavesdropping as taught in Kaufman (Col. 2, lines 61-65).

Referring to claims 4, 16, 34, 36, 38, Dustan discloses that the logon information contains

an incrementable value that is incremented upon a logon failure. After incrementation a decision

step follows that compares the increment value to a preset threshold, which meets the limitation

of a challenge string including a sequence number that increments with each new session.

Conclusion

8.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Benjamin E. Lanier whose telephone number is 571-272-3805.

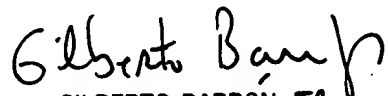The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th0 7:30am-5:00pm, F 7:30am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on 571-272-3799. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Benjamin E. Lanier

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